Low Emissions Development Program

Organisational Capacity Assessment Chris Hani District Municipality

The USAID South Africa Low Emissions Development Program (SA-LED) supports the Government of South Africa to transition to a low-carbon economy by promoting green growth. Our focus is on helping municipalities move LED projects through the project development cycle and increase LED core competencies through technical assistance and learning.

In this effort, SA-LED has recognized the need for institutional capacity assessments for municipalities it is supporting. These assessments focus on the important organizational dimensions of a municipality and identifies areas of strength and required improvement. The self-evaluation assessment also facilitates the implementation of a guided capacity building process. The assessment helps establish a baseline from which the municipality can measure progress.

The tool used in these assessments is the "Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool" (OCAT) tool which focusses on 6 key areas within a municipality. These include governance, policies and service delivery, strategy, programs, financial management and internal functions.

Once the tool has been introduced to the municipality, the participants work in groups to score numerous questions within each of the 6 key areas. A plenary session is facilitated to gain consensus on scoring and associated potential action plans. The data is verified with evidence provided by the municipality. The final outcome is an analytical report and total assessment score.

This detailed report will support municipal decision makers with baseline information for planning and building capacity. Furthermore, it identifies areas where SA-LED can focus technical assistance to prioritize interventions. Having completed a successful assessment at the Chris Hani District Municipality, SA-LED plans to roll out these assessments to other municipalities it is supporting.

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